

Appl. No. : 09/688,854
Filed : June 19, 2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003.

By the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the title as not descriptive. Applicants have presented the amended title "Method and System for Configuring a Graphical User Interface Based Upon a User Profile" for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Applicants have also submitted a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes by which Applicants have submitted for entry in the application a Figure 9 which is referred to in the Brief Description of the Drawings and at page 24, line 22 to page 27, line 6.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10-14

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,571 to Pachauri.

As the Examiner indicates, Pachauri does disclose use of a graphical user interface. When Pachauri is considered in detail however, it is clear that Pachauri is directed to a method of using a graphical user interface to create task groups with functional roles which dictate database access for users, and not a method of configuring graphical user interfaces differently based upon a user.

As detailed beginning at Col. 2, line 66 and continuing to Col. 3, line 24, Pachauri's invention includes a single graphical user interface for manipulating task groups that include actions that may be performed on a database system. That single graphical user interface includes multiple activation points for creating a task group/functional role, activating changes to a task group/functional role, and for displaying the actions which may be performed in the database.

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Thus, as illustrated in Figure 12, the single graphical user interface can be used to “create” and “delete” task groups using those respective buttons, as well as “change” task groups. The interface also illustrates in a central display area the various task groups and their selected status.

The assigned task groups/functional roles are used to control the actions which users can perform on the database. See Pachauri, Col. 2, lines 32-35.

Thus, Pachauri teaches a database access system. In this system, users access a database via interfaces. The user’s access to the database, including the particular actions which the user can perform, is limited based upon assigned roles or tasks. A graphical user interface is used to generate these task groups or assign the functional roles.

Pachauri does not teach or suggest a system in which each particular user has a user profile and a particular set or configuration of navigation elements displayed by a graphical user interface is determined based upon the profile.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 recite a method of configuring a graphical user interface to include navigation selectable elements based upon a user’s profile, and a graphical user interface so configured. As indicated, Pachauri does not teach these claimed features. Applicants assert that Claims 2-8 and 11-14 are allowable for the reason they depend from Claims 1 and 10. Applicants also assert, however, that as Pachauri does not teach the base invention, Pachauri also does not teach the additional elements claimed in these claims, such as arranging navigation selectable elements into levels or the particular type of navigation selectable elements which are displayed.

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Rejection of Claim 3

The Examiner rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pachauri in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,652 to Brown et al.

Applicants assert that Claim 3 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from Claim 1. Applicants assert that Brown does not appear to directly disclose application initiating elements in a graphical user interface, but only application navigation. As detailed at Col. 9, lines 35-40, application navigation includes forms for service classes and actions required within forms, not specifically the display of multiple application initiating elements. However, Applicants acknowledge that application initiating elements are known.

Nonetheless, Applicants assert that the mere existence of such elements does not render a method of configuring a graphical user interface displaying such elements based upon a user profile, obvious. Once again, Applicants assert that the cited art does not teach or suggest specifically configuring the elements displayed in a graphical user interface based upon a user-specific profile.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 15

The Examiner rejected Claims 9 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pachauri and U.S. Patent No. 5,531,441 to Dabrowski et al.

Once again, Applicants assert that the prior art, including Pachauri, does not teach or disclose configuring a graphical user interface based upon a user-specific profile. As detailed above, Pachauri teaches use of a graphical user interface to configure task groups or functional roles which control the actions a user may take with respect to a database.

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Further, Applicants assert that the combination of references is improper. The initial burden is on the Examiner to provide evidence of the suggestion to combine two references in an obviousness rejection. For a combination to be proper, there must be a suggestion or motivation, to combine reference teachings. MPEP 706.02(j); ACS Hospital Sys., Inc., v. Montefiore Hospital, 732 F.2d 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Dabroski teaches a game of double poker which may be presented upon a gaming machine. Pachauri teaches a method and system for controlling access to a database using task groups. There appears to be no relationship between these two inventions, and no suggestion exists in either reference to combine their teachings. For example, Dabroski does not teach or even suggest use of the gaming machine in a computing system including a database having multiple user access, and Pachauri does not teach or suggest any use of the database access system in a gaming environment, much less how such a teaching is applicable to a gaming device configured to present a game of double poker.

Rejection of Claims 17-20

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabrowski in further view of Brown.

Dabrowski teaches a game of double poker. Dabrowski does not teach or suggest a gaming system including gaming devices and user stations displaying graphical user interfaces. Brown teaches a method for electronically delivering banking services to clients. First, Brown is not even

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in the same field as the claimed invention, and thus Applicants assert that it is not even properly cited as prior art against the present invention.

Even if Brown is a proper prior art reference, it is not clear that Brown is in any way pertinent to the invention as claimed. The passage which the Examiner cites in Brown (Col. 9, lines 3-10) do not even refer to a graphical user interface, let alone a graphical user interface which displays navigation selectable elements based upon a user profile or station configuration. This passage in Brown describes a how a set of Java programs cooperate to define a customer access architecture solution.

The Examiner indicates the obviousness of presenting Dabrowski's game on a computing device to allow users at workstations to access the game, and that such an implementation would require a graphical user interface to control a user's actions. The Examiner further asserts that such could be obtained through use of a navigation window and data window.

These assertions, however, do not appear to be supported by the prior art in any way. Dabrowski teaches a particular game for play by a player at a gaming device. Dabrowski does not teach or suggest a gaming system including both gaming machines and user workstations where information is presented and input. Further, Dabrowski does not teach or suggest the use of a graphical user interface configured based upon a user profile or station configuration. Brown does not teaches electronically providing banking services, and thus also does not teach these features.

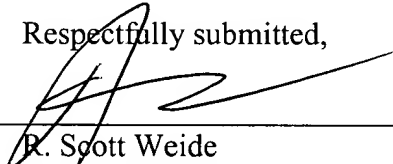
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Rejection of Claim 16

The Examiner rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,385,652 to Brown et al. Applicants have canceled Claim 16.

Summary

Applicants assert that Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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